

JUDGE PRIESTA

EE CIV 2470

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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DARYL CAMPBELL,

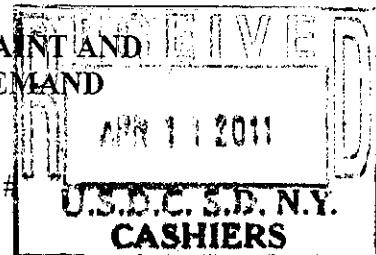
Plaintiff,

-against-

THE CITY OF NEW YORK, CORRECTION OFFICER
M. FOSTER, #18464, CORRECTION OFFICER
SANCHEZ #18617, CAPTAIN SMITH, CAPTAIN
BANKS, PATRICK WALSH, DEPUTY WARDEN
JOHN DOE, DEPUTY WARDEN IN CHARGE OF
SECURITY AT GRVC JOHN DOE, CORRECTION
OFFICER JOHN DOE ##1-6,

COMPLAINT AND ~~RECEIVED~~
JURY DEMAND

Docket #



ECF Case

Defendants.

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PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. This is a civil rights action in which plaintiff seeks relief for the violation of his rights secured by 42 USC §§1983, 1988 the Eighth and the Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution and the laws and Constitution of the State of New York.

2. The claim arises from a February 4, 2010 incident in which Officers of the New York City Department of Correction ("DOC") acting under color of state law, intentionally and willfully subjected plaintiffs to, among other things, excessive force, assault, and battery.

3. Plaintiff seeks monetary damages (special, compensatory, and punitive) against defendants, as well as an award of costs and attorneys' fees, and such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

JURISDICTION

4. This action is brought pursuant to 28 USC §1331 and 42 USC §1983. Pendent party

jurisdiction and supplementary jurisdiction over plaintiffs' state law claims are asserted.

5. The amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000.00 excluding interest and costs.
6. Venue is laid within the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York in that Defendant City of New York is located within and a substantial part of the events giving rise to the claim occurred within the boundaries of the Southern District of New York.

PARTIES

7. Plaintiff is a citizen of the United States and at all times here relevant resided in New York County, City and State of New York. He was a pre-trial detainee at the time of the incident in the custody of the Department of Correction.

8. The City of New York ("City") is a municipal corporation organized under the laws of the State of New York.

9. John Doe Deputy Warden in charge of security for GEORGE R. VIERNO CENTER ("Doe Deputy Warden"), was at all times here relevant the Deputy Warden for Security at GRVC. As such, he was personally involved in training, supervision, and discipline of D.O.C. officers, including some of the individual defendants herein. Scott was also responsible for investigating and correcting systematic security problems at GRVC.

10. Patrick Walsh ("Walsh") was at all times here relevant the Bureau Chief of Facility Operations for the New York City Department of Correction. As such, Walsh was responsible for the policy, practice, supervision, implementation, and conduct of all D.O.C. security matters. Walsh was regularly provided with reports of application of force allegations of allegations of unreported uses of force, and other breaches of security in DOC jails. In addition, at all relevant times, Walsh was responsible for enforcing the rules of D.O.C., and for ensuring that D.O.C. personnel obey the laws of the United States and of the State of New York.

11. All other defendants ("the officers") are employees of the DOC, and are sued in their individual capacities.

12. At all times here mentioned defendants were acting under color of state law, to wit, under color of the statutes, ordinances, regulations, policies, customs and usages of the City and State of New York.

NOTICE OF CLAIM

13. Within 90 days of the events giving rise to this claim, plaintiff filed written notice of claim with the New York City Office of the Comptroller. Over 30 days have elapsed since the filing of that notice, and this matter has not been settled or otherwise disposed of.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

14. On February 4, 2010, plaintiff was incarcerated at George R. Vierno Center ("GRVC") on Rikers Island, New York. At approximately 1:30 p.m., plaintiff asked defendant C.O. Foster if she could open his cell door. C.O. Foster refused and answered with a verbal insult. In turn, plaintiff verbally insulted her.

15. C.O. Foster implored inmates who she said run the house to deal with plaintiff. An inmate then approached plaintiff and told him to leave C.O. Foster alone.

16. Defendant C.O. Foster began crying and shaking. Approximately 15 minutes later, C.O. Foster sprayed a chemical agent into his eyes, without provocation.

17. Plaintiff retreated to the showers to get the chemical agent out of his eyes. Correction officers entered the showers. C.O. Foster pointed plaintiff out to the correction officers as an inmate that had assaulted her, and he was assaulted by the Correction officers.

18. He was taken to the intake area of the facility, where he was again assaulted by correction

officers in the presence of and with the assistance of a Deputy Warden.

19. At no time did Plaintiff assault or attempt to assault any correction officer. Defendants' use of force was without provocation, without any legitimate security purpose, and for the sole purpose of unlawfully punishing the plaintiff.
20. Plaintiff was unlawfully assaulted by defendants without provocation and for no legitimate security purpose. Plaintiff was injured as a result of the defendants' assault.
21. At all times during the events described above, the Corrections Officers were engaged in a joint venture and formed an agreement to violate plaintiff's rights. The individual officers assisted each other in performing the various actions described and lent their physical presence and support and the authority of their office to each other during said events. They failed to intervene in the obviously illegal actions of their fellow officers against plaintiff.
22. During all of the events above described, defendants acted maliciously and with intent to injure plaintiff.
23. As a direct and proximate result of the acts of defendants, plaintiff suffered the following injuries and damages:
 - a. Violation of his right to Due Process of Law under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution;
 - b. Violation of his New York State Constitutional right under Article 1, Section 6 to Due Process of Law;
 - c. Physical pain and suffering;
 - d. Emotional trauma and suffering, including fear, embarrassment, humiliation, emotional distress, frustration, extreme inconvenience, anxiety;
 - e. Attorney's and court fees

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION
(42 USC § 1983)

24. The above paragraphs are here incorporated by reference.
25. Defendants have deprived plaintiff of his civil, constitutional and statutory rights under color of law and have conspired to deprive him of such rights and are liable to plaintiff under 42 USC § 1983.
26. Defendants' conduct deprived plaintiff of his right to due process of law, pursuant to the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution.
27. Plaintiff has been damaged as a result of defendants' wrongful acts.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION
(MUNICIPAL AND SUPERVISORY LIABILITY)

28. The above paragraphs are here incorporated by reference.
29. The City, Walsh and Doe Deputy Warden, are liable for the damages suffered by plaintiff as a result of the conduct of their employees, agents, and servants.
30. The City, Walsh and Doe Deputy Warden, and the warden knew or should have known of their employees', agents', or servants' propensity to engage in the illegal and wrongful acts detailed above.
31. The aforesaid event was not an isolated incident. The City, Walsh and Doe Deputy Warden have been aware for some time (from lawsuits, notices of claim and complaints from inmates and their families members and friends, press reports and investigations) that many of their officers are insufficiently trained on using appropriate force. The City, the Commissioner, the Chief, and the warden insufficiently discipline officers for not reporting fellow officers' misconduct that they have observed, and they fail to discipline officers for making false statements about uses of force. As a result, correction officers freely assault inmates without fear of reprisal. The

investigatory body responsible for monitoring officer behavior, the Inspector General's office, also wrongfully allows officers to write their own reports, rather than interviewing officers individually, although that is standard procedure for reviewing inmate statements. In addition, the Inspector General routinely fails to investigate claims of violence or abuse when the person suffering does not initiate the claim. The City, Walsh and Doe Deputy Warden, are aware that all of the aforementioned has resulted in violations of citizens' constitutional rights. Despite such notice, the City has failed to take corrective action. This failure and these policies caused the officers in the present case to violate plaintiff's civil and constitutional rights, without fear of reprisal.

32. The City, Walsh and Doe Deputy Warden, and the warden knew or should have known that the officers who caused plaintiff's injury had a propensity for the type of conduct that took place in this case. Nevertheless, the City, Walsh and Doe Deputy Warden, and the warden failed to take corrective action. Without proper supervision not only is this abusive behavior ignored, it is condoned.

33. The City, Walsh and Doe Deputy Warden have failed to take the steps to discipline, train, supervise or otherwise correct the improper, illegal conduct of the individual defendants in this and in similar cases involving misconduct.

34. The above described policies and customs demonstrated a deliberate indifference on the part of policymakers of the City, Walsh and Doe Deputy Warden, and the warden to the constitutional rights of persons within New York City, and were the cause of the violations of plaintiff's rights here alleged.

35. Defendants the City, Walsh and Doe Deputy Warden have damaged plaintiff by their failure to properly train, supervise, discipline, review, remove, or correct the illegal and improper acts of

their employees, agents or servants in this and in similar cases involving officer misconduct.

36. Plaintiff has been damaged as a result of the wrongful, negligent and illegal acts of the the City Walsh and Doe Deputy Warden.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION
(ASSAULT)

37. The above paragraphs are here incorporated by reference.

38. By approaching and pushing plaintiff, defendants made plaintiff fear for his physical well-being and safety and placed him in apprehension of immediate harmful and/or offensive touching.

39. Defendants have deprived plaintiff of his civil, constitutional and statutory rights and have conspired to deprive him of such rights and are liable to plaintiffs under common law, 42 USC §1983 and New York State laws and Constitution.

40. Plaintiff was damaged by defendants' assault.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION
(BATTERY)

41. The above paragraphs are here incorporated by reference.

42. Defendants engaged in and subjected plaintiff to immediate harmful and/or offensive touching and battered them.

43. Defendants used excessive and unnecessary force with plaintiff.

44. Defendants have deprived plaintiff of his civil, constitutional and statutory rights and have conspired to deprive him of such rights and are liable to plaintiffs under common law, 42 USC §1983 and the New York State Constitution.

45. Plaintiff was damaged defendant's battery.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION
(CONSTITUTIONAL TORT)

46. All preceding paragraphs are here incorporated by reference.
47. Defendants, acting under color of law, violated plaintiff's rights pursuant to §§6 and 12 of the New York State Constitution.
48. A damages remedy here is necessary to effectuate the purposes of §§6 and 12 of the New York State Constitution, and appropriate to ensure full realization of plaintiff's rights under those sections.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION
(NEGLIGENT HIRING & RETENTION)

49. The above paragraphs are here incorporated by reference.
50. Defendant officers had a bad disposition and the Department of Correction knew or should have known of facts that would have led reasonable and prudent people to further investigate the defendant officers' bad dispositions through the hiring process.
51. Defendants knew or should have known that their failure to investigate defendant officers' bad dispositions would lead to plaintiff's injury.
52. Defendants were negligent in their hiring and retaining the officers involved in this case in that they knew or should have known of the officers' propensity to use excessive force.
53. Defendants have deprived plaintiff of his civil, constitutional and statutory rights and have conspired to deprive him of such rights and are liable to plaintiffs under common law, 42 USC §1983 and the New York State Constitution.
54. The injury to plaintiff was caused by the officers' foreseeable use of excessive force.

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION
(RESPONDEAT SUPERIOR)

55. The preceding paragraphs are here incorporated by reference.

56. Defendants' intentional tortious acts were undertaken within the scope of their employment by defendant City of New York and in furtherance of the defendant City of New York's interest.

57. As a result of defendants' tortious conduct in the course of their employment and in furtherance of the business of defendant City of New York, plaintiff was damaged.

EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION
(CONSPIRACY)

58. The above paragraphs are here incorporated by reference.

59. Defendant correction officers made an agreement to attempt to cover up the assault, battery and excessive force against plaintiff.

60. Defendant captain took action towards the furtherance of this agreement by writing an infraction against him.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff demands judgment against the defendants, jointly and severally, as follows:

- A. In favor of plaintiff in an amount to be determined by a jury for each of plaintiff's causes of action;
- B. Awarding plaintiff punitive damages in an amount to be determined by a jury;
- C. Awarding plaintiff reasonable attorneys' fees, costs and disbursements of this action; and
- D. Granting such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury.

DATED: Brooklyn, New York
April 8, 2011

TO: New York City
Corporation Counsel Office
100 Church Street, 4th floor
New York, NY 10007

Yours, etc.,


LEO GLICKMAN
Bar #LG3364
Attorney for Plaintiff
475 Atlantic Avenue, 3d Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11217
(718) 852-3710
lglickman@stollglickman.com